Chapters
41 & 42
Higasa Akai
THE ROYAL TUTOR

Chapter 41

After the Rain

I'VE LONG SUSPECTED THAT YOU'RE NO ORDINARY COMMONER, BUT...
DON'T TELL ME...
YOU'RE...
MY COVER'S BLOWN...
HE KNOWS I'M A PRINCE...!!
!!

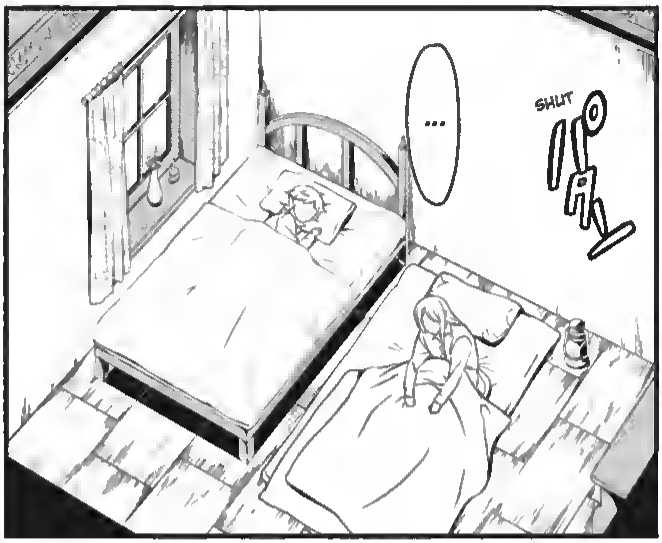
YOU'RE ACTUALLY...
TA-DAA!
...A PAMPERED YOUNG GENTLEMAN FROM A VERY WELL-TO-DO FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?

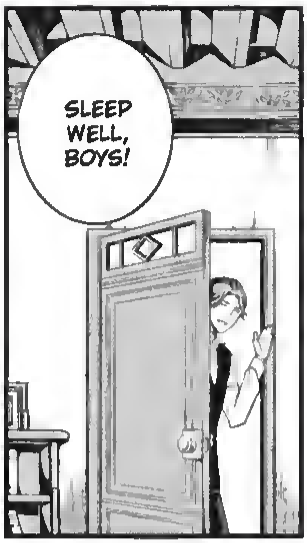
BFFT.

ERMM... HMMM?
IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOU HAVE SERVANTS AT HOME...
...YOU COME AND GO VIA CARRIAGE ...
...AND YOUR FATHER WAS UNCOMMONLY REFINED. CERTAINLY NOT YOUR AVERAGE FELLOW.

HE'S NOT WRONG...
BUT FOR SOME REASON, I'M NOT SURE HOW TO FEEL ABOUT THAT.
HE IS NOT INCORRECT, YET HE IS ALSO NOT CORRECT.
THERE-FORE, YOU HAVE TO BE A YOUNG GENTLE-MAN!
AM I ON THE MARK? I AM, AREN'T I!?
WHAT A BRILLIANT DEDUCTION!!
.....
OUT SEEING THE WORLD AT YOUR AGE? IMPRESSIVE!
AH-HA-HA... YES, WELL...
WIPE ふき WIPE ふき
IT IS FORTUNATE FOR US THAT THE MASTER'S FACULTIES ARE A TAD LACKING.
HOW IS IT, THEN? DOES IT PLEASE YOUR NOBLE PALATE?
MY COM-PLIMENTS TO THE CHEF!
MUNCH がつ MUNCH

YOU'RE FINE WITH THE FLOOR, AREN'T YOU, RICH?
WHAT!?
KCHAK
THIS IS THE GUEST ROOM.
WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU SLEEP? THERE'S ONLY ONE BED.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
BUT I'M A PRINCE!
WAIT, WE WON'T EACH HAVE OUR OWN ROOM?
SHOCK
THE... FLOOR ???
DOUBLE SHOCK
YOU'RE THE OLDER BROTHER. STEP UP! IT'S ONLY FOR ONE NIGHT!
THE FLOOR...
LITTLE...
SHOCK
OR WOULD YOU CLAIM THE BED FOR YOURSELF, OUSTING YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER TO THE FLOOR WHEN HE'S SO LITTLE?
LITTLE ...!?


...
SHUT


SLEEP WELL, BOYS!

RISE
...MY APOLOGIES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
I SEEM TO HAVE A CLAIM OVER THE BED...

SOB SOB SOB SOB
IT'S SO HAAARD...
WHY SHOULD BEAUTEOUS PRINCE LICHT HAVE TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR...!?
AH...
.....

TEACH...
IT WILL NOT DO FOR THIS TO ADVERSELY AFFECT YOUR LESSONS TOMORROW.
DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH MY COMFORT.
LET'S SWITCH PLACES.
HUH!? NO, I REALLY COULDN'T ...
AFTER THAT DISPLAY OF TEARS?
SOB SOB SOB SOB SOB
IT'S SO HAAARD...
I HARDLY FEEL A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BED AND THE FLOOR! AND IT'S SO SMALL TOO!
.....
AH...

PERSONALLY, I FEEL MUCH MORE AT HOME IN A BED OF THIS WIDTH AND HARDNESS.
...HELP YOURSELF TO THE BED, THEN...
SLUMP
THEY'RE BOTH THE SAME TO ME, ANYWAY...
"LAY-ABOUT"...!?
GOODNESS GRACIOUS. I DARESAY YOU ARE AS MUCH OF A SPOILED LAYABOUT AS PRINCE LEONHARD HIMSELF.
YOU CANNOT COMPARE A COMMONER'S QUARTERS WITH THOSE IN THE PALACE.
...AS I THOUGHT. GIVEN THAT YOUR HIGHNESS WAS BROUGHT UP IN A PALACE...
...TRULY UNDERSTANDING THE LIVES OF COMMONERS TO A DEGREE THAT YOU COULD USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AS AN ADVANTAGE ...
...WOULD BE QUITE CHALLENGING FOR YOU INDEED.
I CAN DO IT! I'VE SETTLED INTO EVERYTHING I'VE TRIED SO FAR. I'M SURE I'LL ADAPT TO THIS IN NO TIME TOO...!
I WILL TAKE THE FLOOR.
D-DON'T SAY THAT...
...!

すぴょ
ZZZZ..

すぴょ
ZZZZ..
MMBL MMBL
もにゃもにゃ
YOU'RE ENTIRELY TOO AT HOME EXPERIENCING COMMONER LIFE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SO LONG, TEACH!!
SO FAST!

DRAT! I'LL SLEEP SOUNDLY HERE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
FLUMP
ぼふっ
NGH...
I'D SAY HE SEEMS MORE COMFORTABLE IN A STRANGER'S HOME THAN HE IS LIVING IN THE PALACE...
HE DIDN'T HOLD BACK AT ALL DURING DINNER EITHER...
MUNCH MUNCH
がつがつ
NOM NOM
もぐもぐ

.....
FSHHHHH
.....!
FSHHHHH
WHSHHHH
THE WINDOW'S CLOSED, YET THE WIND IS STILL COMING IN...IS IT JUST ME, OR ARE THE WALLS THIN...? THE SOUND OF THE RAIN IS ANNOYING...
EXTREMELY ANNOYING...
LURCH
むくっ
のそっ
TIPTOE
I'LL FETCH MYSELF A GLASS OF WATER.
I THINK THE MASTER SAID HE USES THE CAFÉ KITCHEN...
すぴょ——
SNRRR
すぴょ——
SNRRR
すぴょ——
SNRRR
zzz
.....
すぴょ——
SNRRR
すぴょ——
SNRRR

DOOOOM
AHEM... NOT THAT THE GREAT BEAUTEOUS PRINCE LICHT WOULD EVER BE AFRAID OF THE DARK...!
I-IT IS EERIE, YES...
...BUT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS AND ALL THAT!
HA HA. HA...
CREAK
CREAK
CANDLES LIT ALL NIGHT
GUARDS PATROLLING
UWAAAH...
IN THE PALACE, IT'S NEVER THIS DARK...EVEN AT NIGHT...
EEK!
FLINCH
SHUDDER
WH-WHAT!? WHAT WAS THAT VOICE!!?

GRIN
WHAT BRINGS YOU DOWN HERE, RICH?
CAN'T SLEEP?
.....
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. I HAVE TROUBLE SLEEPING IN NEW PLACES TOO.
...THE MASTER? HIS HAIR'S DOWN ...
ERR... YES...I SUPPOSE NOT...
CLATTER
THIS IS MY NIGHTLY ROUTINE.
EVER WONDERED WHY THE CAFÉ'S CUPS ARE ALWAYS SPARKLY CLEAN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
COME, COME!

IF YOU CAN'T SLEEP, THEN YOU MAY AS WELL WAKE YOURSELF UP.
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE SHARED IT WITH.
I JUST GOT THIS NEW KIND OF COFFEE BEAN IN.
TRY THIS, WON'T YOU?
POUR
POUR
SIP
.....
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU KEPT WORKING EVEN AFTER THE CAFÉ CLOSED FOR THE DAY.
.....
I LIKE IT, PERSONALLY, BUT I'M TORN ABOUT WHETHER I SHOULD OFFER IT AT THE CAFÉ.
EXACTLY!
...IT'S GOOD! THE ACIDITY IS STRONG. THE FLAVOR IS QUITE UNIQUE.

WELL EXCUSE ME FOR BEING A SAD BACHELOR MARRIED TO HIS WORK.
YOU'VE NOTHING ELSE TO DO, YOU LIVE IN THIS CRAMPED OLD BUILDING, YOU'RE STILL SINGLE EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE GETTING ON IN AGE, AND IN THE MIDST OF THAT LONE-SOME LIFE, YOU'RE DOING THIS MENIAL TASK ALL BY YOURSELF...
YOU POOR MAN...
ISN'T IT ROUGH, HAVING TO THINK OF THE CAFÉ DAY IN AND DAY OUT?
"...AND ALSO FOR YOU, MY CHILDREN."
"I WORK FOR MY COUNTRY, FOR MY PEOPLE...
.....
IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT SOUNDS.
BESIDES, MY WORK BRINGS JOY TO SO MANY CUSTOMERS.
SO I'M NOT PARTICULARLY LONELY.
...SO YOU WORK THIS HARD FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS.
MM, I DO WORK HARD.

TRUTH BE TOLD, THOUGH...
...I DO THE JOB BECAUSE I ENJOY IT.
.....
HUH...?

MAKING COFFEE. CHATTING WITH PATRONS.
BUT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WORK MYSELF TO THE BONE JUST FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS!
OF COURSE, IT'S TRUE THAT YOU CAN'T HAVE A BUSINESS WITHOUT CUSTOMERS.
I ENJOY EACH OF THOSE LITTLE THINGS.
POLISHING CUPS ALONE EVERY NIGHT.
THE MORE TIME I GET TO SPEND DOING THE THINGS I ENJOY, THE HAPPIER I FEEL.
...I'M A SIMPLE MAN, REALLY.

WE ONLY HAVE SO MUCH TIME ON THIS EARTH. IF YOU'RE ABLE TO SPEND YOUR LIFE DOING SOMETHING YOU LOVE...
...WHY, I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER RECIPE FOR HAPPI-NESS.
—!

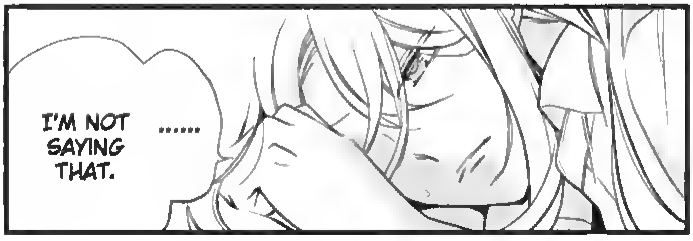
...THAT SAID, SOMETIMES BUSINESS ISN'T SO GOOD, OR THERE WILL BE BOTHERSOME CUSTOMERS, AND SO ON.
EVEN A JOB YOU LOVE WILL HAVE ITS HARD-SHIPS.
WAH!
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
AND LIKE YOU SAID, I'M GETTING OLD TO BE A SINGLE WORKAHOLIC.
STILL... I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER GIVE UP MY CAFÉ.
ALTHOUGH YOU MIGHT BE THINKING...
...THAT YOU NEVER WANT TO END UP LIKE ME.

AH. WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER CUP?
HE AND FATHER ARE BOTH GROWN-UPS, YET THEIR PHILOSOPHIES ARE SO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...
...
IT SIMPLY ISN'T A JOB YOU TAKE ON BECAUSE IT'S FUN.
OF COURSE, THAT'S BECAUSE A KING HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS PEOPLE.

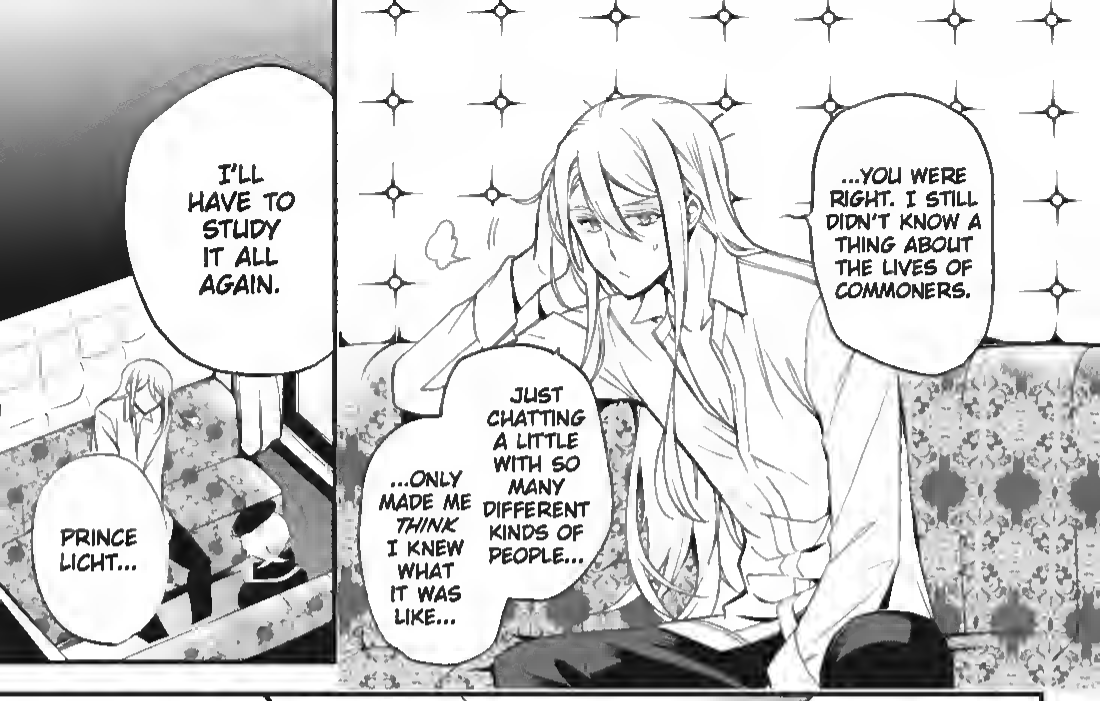
SO THERE ARE GROWN-UPS WHO LIVE LIKE THAT TOO...

I HAD NO IDEA...

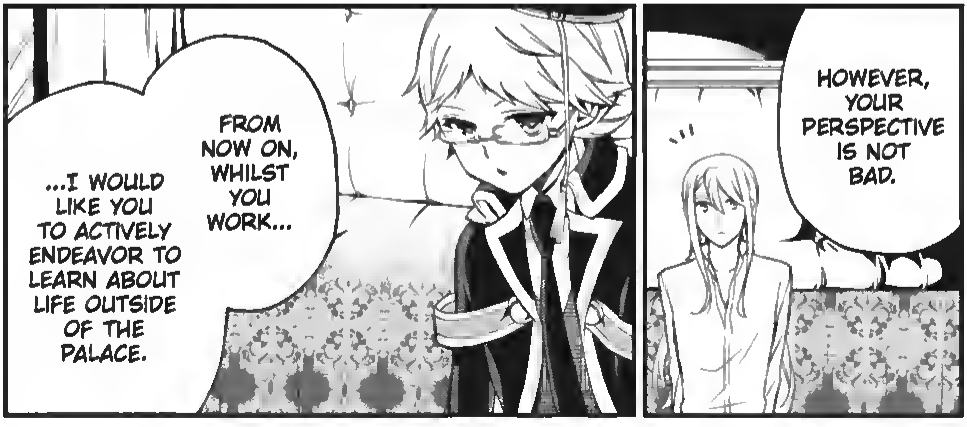
FINALLY, WE CAN GO HOME! I'M DYING TO GET BACK TO THE PALACE.
TIRED OF THE COMMONER LIFE ALREADY, YOUR HIGHNESS?


I'M NOT SAYING THAT.
.....

HAAAH... AFTER ALL THAT, I BARELY GOT A WINK OF SLEEP.
YAWN...

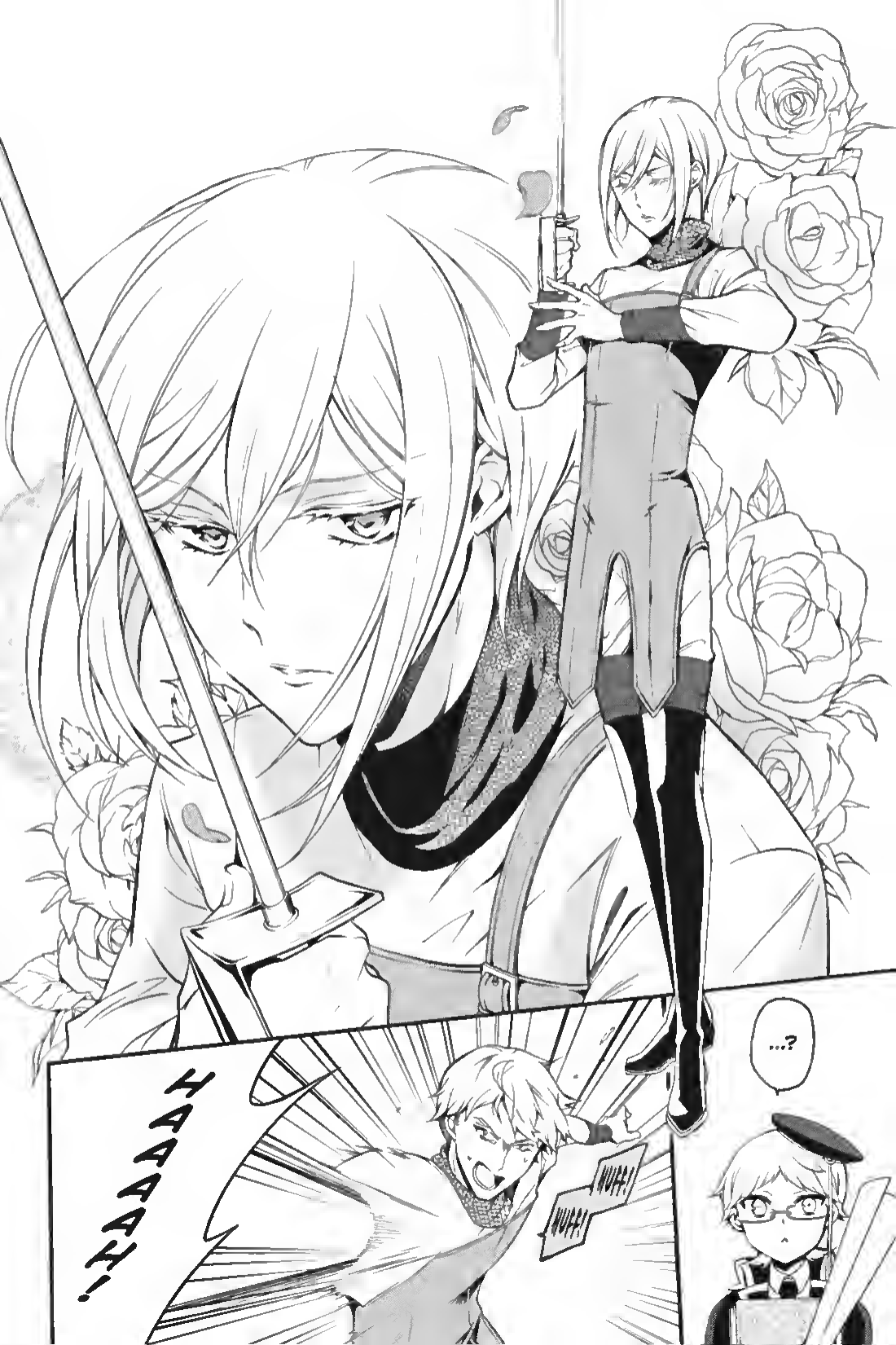

I'LL HAVE TO STUDY IT ALL AGAIN.
PRINCE LICHT...
...ONLY MADE ME THINK I KNEW WHAT IT WAS LIKE...
JUST CHATTING A LITTLE WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE...
...YOU WERE RIGHT. I STILL DIDN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THE LIVES OF COMMONERS.

wAAAH... SO HARSH...
I'M SORRY...
COMMONER.
TO BE QUITE FRANK, I BELIEVE THAT YOU STILL DO NOT TRULY KNOW ANYTHING FROM A SINGLE NIGHT'S STAY OUTSIDE OF THE PALACE.


...I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ACTIVELY ENDEAVOR TO LEARN ABOUT LIFE OUTSIDE OF THE PALACE.
FROM NOW ON, WHILST YOU WORK...
...!
HOWEVER, YOUR PERSPECTIVE IS NOT BAD.

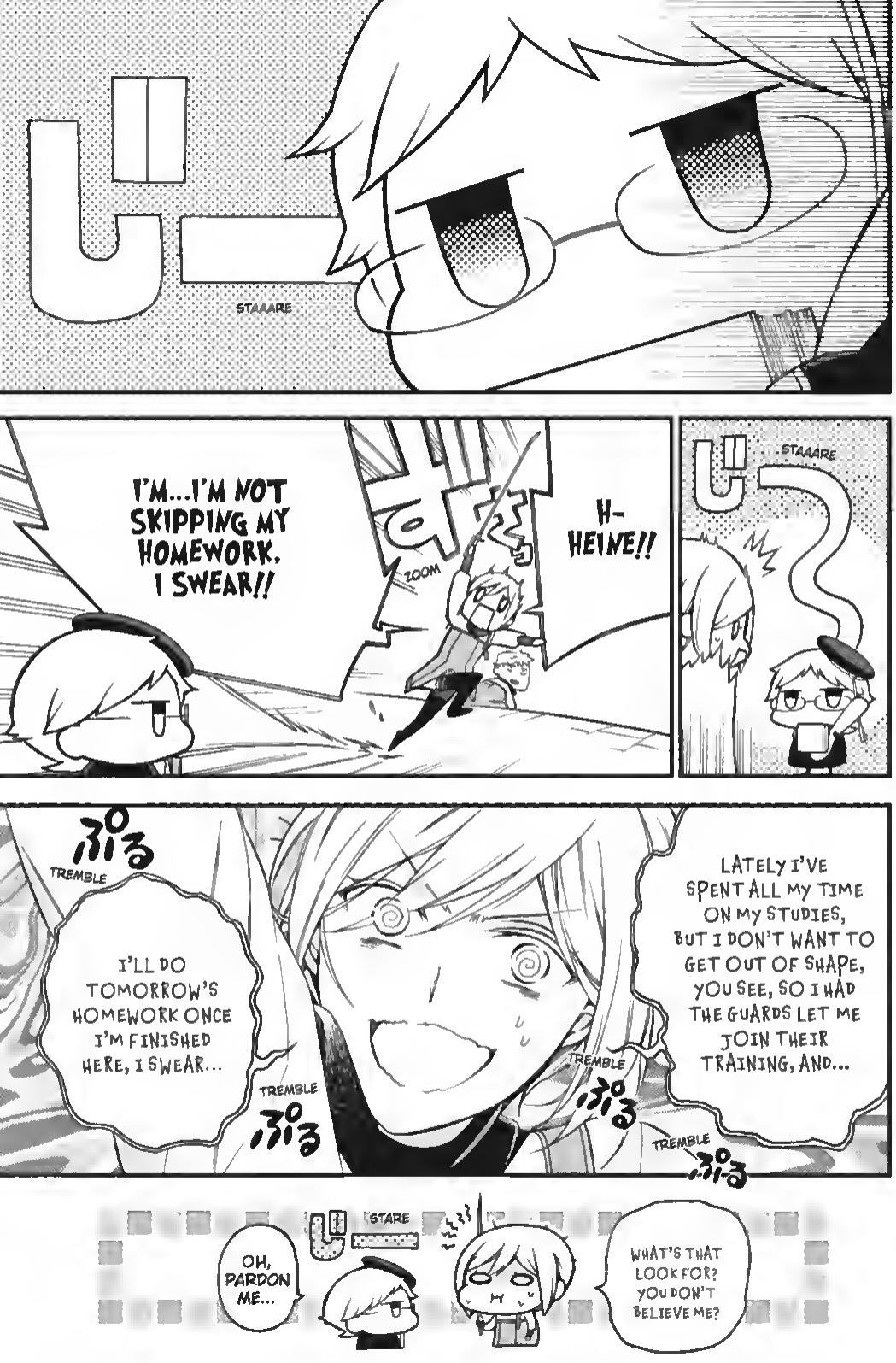
LET US NURTURE YOUR UNIQUE ADVANTAGE THAT NEITHER PRINCE EINS NOR YOUR OTHER BROTHERS HAVE...
...AND MAKE YOU A WORTHY CANDIDATE FOR KING!
...WELL? SHALL WE?
HUH !?
OH, UH, RIGHT. NATU-RALLY!
.....
Read on to the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

Chapter 42
To Battle!
NOW, I SUPPOSE I OUGHT TO DRAFT THE TEXT FOR PRINCE LEONHARD'S LESSON TOMORROW...
HMM? WHAT'S THIS GATHERING IN THE COURT-YARD?
OUR SURVEY OF THE FUNDAMENTALS IN EACH SUBJECT WILL CONCLUDE WITH ONE MORE PUSH.
AS WE PROGRESS INTO MORE DIFFICULT MATERIAL, I WILL HAVE TO TAKE CARE THAT IT IS SIMPLE TO COMPREHEND, SO THAT HE DOES NOT BECOME DISCOUR-AGED AND BURST INTO TEARS.
WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR NOT UNDERSTANDING!
I CAN'T DO THIS..
WAAAHN!

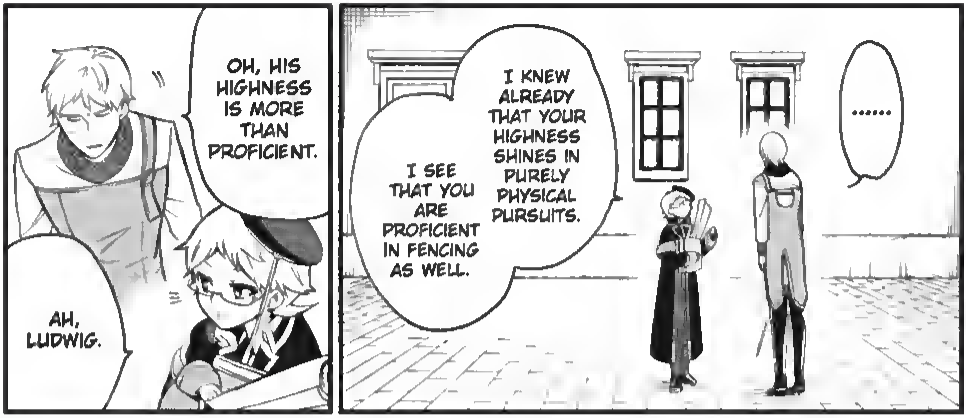

...?
HUH!
HUH!
HAAAAAH!

BAM
!?

CLAMOR
TOUCH!
PRINCE LEONHARD WINS THE BOUT!
...!
SLUMP
BUT... HOW ...?
HMPH.

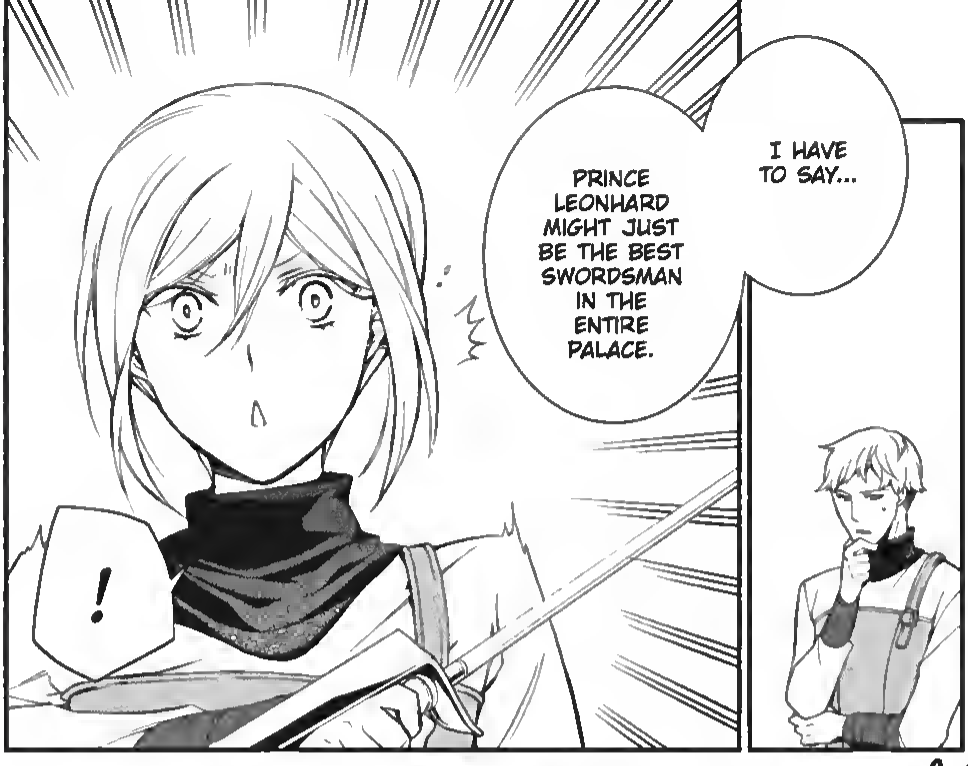

STAAARE
I'M...I'M NOT SKIPPING MY HOMEWORK. I SWEAR!!
ZOOM
H-HEINE!!
STAAARE
TREMBLE
I'LL DO TOMORROW'S HOMEWORK ONCE I'M FINISHED HERE, I SWEAR...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
LATELY I'VE SPENT ALL MY TIME ON MY STUDIES, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET OUT OF SHAPE, YOU SEE, SO I HAD THE GUARDS LET ME JOIN THEIR TRAINING, AND...
STARE
OH, PARDON ME...
WHAT'S THAT LOOK FOR? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

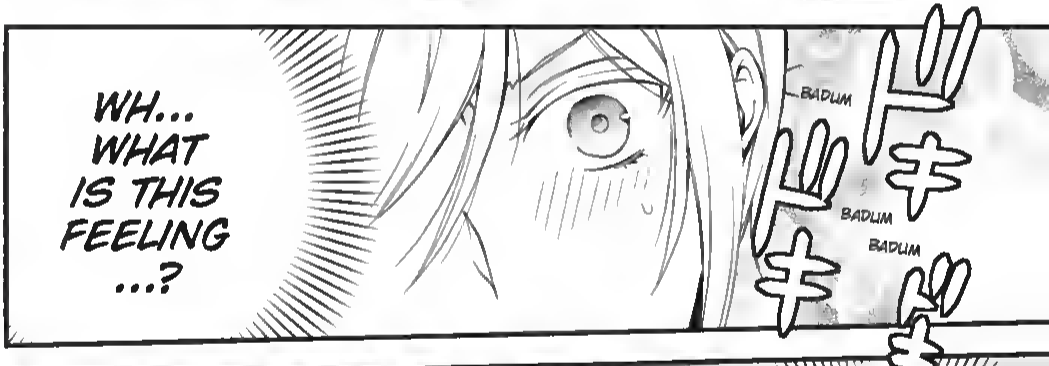
EXCUSE ME!!?
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
I DON'T GET IT! BUT I'LL TRY BECAUSE I HATE TO ADMIT DEFEAT!
NORMALLY
I WAS PONDERING WHETHER YOUR HIGHNESS IS INDEED THE SAME PERSON WHOSE AVERSION TO STUDYING NORMALLY LEAVES HIM ON THE VERGE OF TEARS...
YOUR HIGHNESS LOOKS MOST GALLANT WHILST FENCING.
DO NOT MIS-UNDERSTAND. IT WAS INTENDED TO BE PRAISE.
REALLY !?
OOH. YOU ALWAYS MAKE ME OUT TO BE A FOOL!
I AM NOT A CRY-BABY!
I AM ALREADY QUITE CONTENT, THANK YOU.
SEE? SEE!?
HMPH!
THEN I WILL ALLOW YOU TO GAZE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!
BLUNT
PWIP
PWIP


OH, HIS HIGHNESS IS MORE THAN PROFICIENT.
AH, LUDWIG.
I KNEW ALREADY THAT YOUR HIGHNESS SHINES IN PURELY PHYSICAL PURSUITS.
I SEE THAT YOU ARE PROFICIENT IN FENCING AS WELL.
.....

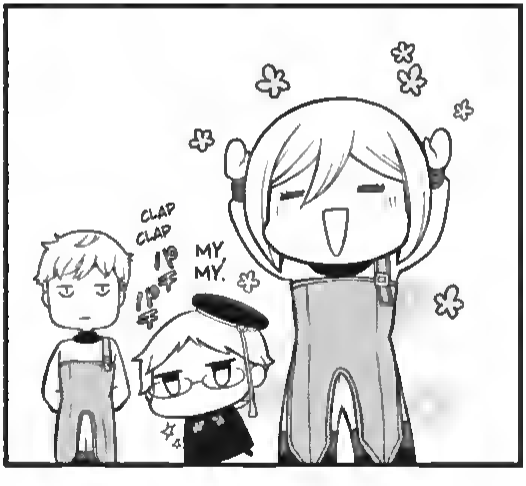
すぅぅ——ん
GLOOM
EVERY SINGLE ONE!?
...AND YET HIS HIGHNESS HAS BESTED EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US...
AS GUARDS, WE STAND BETWEEN THE PRINCES AND DANGER. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE TO ANYONE...

HEH HEH
HEH!
I TOOK MY SWORD AND WENT, SHBAM! FWISH-FWISH! TWANG! IT WAS SIMPLE!
A PURELY INTUITIVE MAN...


I HAVE TO SAY...
PRINCE LEONHARD MIGHT JUST BE THE BEST SWORDSMAN IN THE ENTIRE PALACE.
!


WH... WHAT IS THIS FEELING ...?
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM

...FROM THE FUNDA-MENTALS.
YOU WILL HAVE TO BEGIN_
ARE YOU A COMPLETE DUNCE?
LIKE THIS
AND THIS
HNNG...
I'VE BEEN MADE FUN OF SOOOOO MUCH LATELY THAT THIS MAKES ME...
... UNBELIEVABLY HAPPY!



THE MOST SKILLED SWORDSMAN AMONG THE GUARDS IS...

FWIP
HULLOOO!
MAXIMILIAN ROSENBERG, FINISHED WITH WORK AND PRESENT AS REQUESTED!
TRAINING WITH THE PRINCE, HMMMM? IT WOULD BE AN HONOR!
THAT'S RIIIGHT! I'M THE YOUNG HOPE OF THE GUARDS!
Y-YOU ARE HE...!?
THE RUMORED "MOST SKILLED"
SO IT'S YOU... .....
I SEE.
AND A BOASTFUL ONE TOO...
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M AN EXCELLENT GUARD!
THAT'S WHY I'M ASSIGNED TO ESCORT THE PRINCES WITH LUDWIG SO OFTEN.

THE TWO OF US GUARD YOUR HIGHNESS FREQUENTLY ...
HEYYY! THAT'S THE SAME REACTION PRINCE KAI HAD!
WELL, I FORGOT!
BLUNT
SLUMP
WAIT
WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?
?
I HOPE YOU'RE READY, YOUR HIGHNESS!
WELL, IN ANY CASE...
THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, HE'S NO PUSHOVER.
SWSH

THE TARGET AREAS EXCLUDE VITAL SPOTS SUCH AS THE HEAD.
WHOEVER SCORES THE FIRST TOUCH ON HIS OPPONENT WILL BE THE VICTOR.
DON'T YOU DARE LOSE NOW!
YOU HAVE TO WIN! FOR THE HONOR OF THE GUARDS!!

BEGIN!!
LUNGE
I WILL BE THE BEST FENCER IN THE PALACE...!
I'LL MAKE YOU REMEMBER MY NAME!
WHOOSH

CLANG
LUNGE
TWANG
GRIIIND
GUH!

I'M NOT DONE YET!!
SKFF
THAK
THAK
THAK
THAK
THAK
THAK
KSHING
KSHING KLANG
A-AMAZ-ING...
WHOA...
YEEEK!
KSHING
GRIND
KSHING

I SEE...
AH, YES. HE IS COUNT ROSENBERG'S COUSIN.
HE COMES FROM A PRESTIGIOUS NOBLE FAMILY... I'M SURE HE HAD MANY LESSONS.
DESPITE HOW HE ACTS, IRRITATINGLY ENOUGH.
PUSH BACK! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
...BUT MAXIMILIAN IS DOING A GOOD JOB OF HOLDING HIS OWN.
THE PRINCE HAS THE ADVANTAGE...
GOO!
HMPH!
CHEEEER
REPEL HIS ATTACK! YOU'VE GOT IT!!
GO, MAXIMILIAN! THAT'S IT!
I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING HE WOULD BE GLAD TO HEAR.
すぅっ
INHALE
AH, LOOK OUT!!
...YET NO VOICE IS CHEERING HIS HIGHNESS ON. THAT IS A PITY.
THEY ARE ALL CHEERING FOR MAXIMILIAN.
THE PRINCE IS PUSHING MAXIMILIAN BACK...
MAXIMILIAN!!
NOW LUNGE!

FIGHT TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY, PRINCE LEONHARD!
THE SIGHT OF YOUR HIGHNESS WITH SWORD IN HAND...
...IS WONDER-FULLY GALLANT INDEED!

WHAT!? DO YOU REALLY MEAN IT!?

Ah.
ペち
SMACK
.....
.....
NGAAAH!
TOUCH!
MAXIMILIAN IS THE VICTOR!
YEAAAH!

ALL I DID WAS CHEER FOR YOUR HIGHNESS.
WHY, YOU...!!
TH-THAT BOUT DOESN'T COUNT!!
WHAAAT?
WHAP
GRRRR!
YOU ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBILE FOR ALLOWING YOURSELF TO BE DISTRACTED.
SIGH...
SO FOR TODAY, WE'LL HAVE TO SAY THAT THE WIN GOES TO ME!
TEE-HEE!
...!
HUFF
I HAVE TO BE HONEST, I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY FOR ANOTHER GO...
I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH A TEENAGER!

WAAA
I WANT TO BE NUMBER ONE IN THE PALACE! DO YOU MEAN TO RUN AWAY WITHOUT GIVING ME A FAIR CHANCE, MAXI-SOMETHING!?
H-HUH!? I-IT'S NOTHING TO CRY OVER!
AAAND YOU STILL DON'T REMEMBER MY NAME.

OH!
THAT WAY, YOUR HIGHNESS WOULD TRULY-ULY BE NUMBER ONE!
...WHY NOT GO ALL THE WAY AND CHALLENGE THE NUMBER-ONE MASTER SWORDSMAN IN THE WHOLE KINGDOM?
I HAVE AN IDEA! IF YOU'RE THIS TAKEN WITH BEING NUMBER ONE...
WHAT ARE YOU...!?

AH... COULD IT BE...
?
...IN THE WHOLE KINGDOM?
THE NUMBER-ONE MASTER SWORDS-MAN...

TA-DAA!
HUH...?
AS I SUSPECT-ED...
HEH.
A FENCING MATCH, EH?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, I MIGHT BE A BIT RUSTY.
F-FATHER?
...GH...

DO YOU, NOW? WELL, LEONHARD, IF THAT IS WHAT YOU WISH...
I WANT TO BEST YOU AND BECOME THE NUMBER-ONE SWORDSMAN IN THE KINGDOM!
WHAP
PLEASE BATTLE ME!
...THEN I WILL NOT HOLD BACK...
SWISH
...?
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
GULP
...

RAISING A SWORD AGAINST ONE OF MY CHILDREN... EVEN ONE THAT ISN'T SHARP...
NO... THIS IS... BUT I...
GUSH
DASH
F-FATHER !!?
I CANNOT DO IT!
ONE COULD INTERPRET THIS AS AWARDING HIM THE NUMBER-ONE RANK BY WAY OF SURRENDER ...?
WOW
I CAN'T!
FATHER! FIGHT MEEE! I WANT TO BE NUMBER ONE!

To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

The Royal Tutor Chapters 41 & 42

Higasa Akai

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: August 2016

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ISBN: 978-0-316-50389-1 (ebook)